

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/652,656

Amdt. Dated 3/2/05

First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 9/22/2004

Page 6 of 8

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 20-23. These sheets, which include Figs. 20-23, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 20-23. In Figs. 20-23, an arrowhead of reference character "21f" was removed to clarify that reference character "20a" indicates a portion through which the seat belt webbing S is turned back, while "21f" indicates a curved face of the portion 20a.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet Nos. 10-12

Annotated Sheets showing changes

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/652,656

Amtd. Dated 3/2/05

First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 9/22/2004

Page 7 of 8

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), rejected Claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and indicated that Claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants amended the Title, Claims 1-4, and the drawings in the foregoing amendment.

Nitschke Does Not Anticipate the Invention of Claim 1

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by DE 3144527 ("*Nitschke*"). This rejection is traversed for the reasons discussed below.

The loop hanger of amended Claim 1 requires a base member (20) having a slot (21) through which a belt may pass wherein the base member (20) is made of a metal plate; and a tongue (20a) formed integrally with the base member (20) wherein the tongue is substantially arcuate, wherein a center of arc of the arcuate tongue (20a) lies within a plane of the base member; wherein the belt is slidably turned back on the arcuate tongue (20a); wherein a half portion of the arcuate tongue (20a) is located so as to be protruded from one surface side of the plane of the base member (20); wherein another half portion of the arcuate tongue (20a) is located so as to be protruded from the other surface side of the plane of the base member (20); and wherein both of the half portion and the other half portion of the arcuate tongue are formed from the metal plate which forms the base member.

Nitschke describes that a separate body 11 having an arcuate face is fixed to a curved tongue 9 as shown in Fig. 4. In *Nitschke*, the tongue 9 and the body 11 are separate parts. Thus, *Nitschke* fails to describe an arcuate tongue that is formed from the same metal plate which forms the base member, as required by amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Nitschke*, and Claim 1 should be allowed.

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/652,656

Amdt. Dated 3/2/05

First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 9/22/2004

Page 8 of 8

Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 depend from Claim 1. The remarks made above in support of patentability of Claim 1 are equally applicable to distinguish the dependent claims from *Nitschke*. Accordingly, Claims 2-3 should also be allowed.

Claims 4-6

The Examiner indicated that Claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 was amended to correct inconsistency and to include all of the limitations of base Claim 1 other than the correction of the inconsistency. Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 4. Accordingly, Claims 4-6 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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